

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-08 FEA-02 OIC-04 DRC-01 SCI-06 OMB-01 /121 W

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O R 231607Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3723

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0048

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU

SUBJ* ENERGY: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, LUXEMBOURG
PARTICIPATION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER
PIERRE WERNER:

QUOTE I AM VERY PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF
YOUR LETTER DATED JANUARY 22ND, DELIVERING ME A
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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, IN ORDER TO

INVITE LUXEMBOURG TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 11TH.

QUOTE. DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S ARGUMENTS TO STRESS THE OPPORTUNITY; AND THE OBJECTIVES OF HIS INITIATIVE, I AM GLAD TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION AND TO INFORM YOU THAT, FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S DECISION TO ATTEND THE ENERGY CONFERENCE, MY COUNTRY WILL BE REPRESENTED ON THIS OCCASION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. GASTON THORN.

QUOTE PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

*

UNQUOTE

2. THE ABOVE TEXT WAS RELEASED BY THE GOL TO THE PRESS ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 23.
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3. ON AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 23, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH CALLED TO INFORM US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN IS "VERY ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR COORDINATING VIEWS ON ENERGY MATTERS IN WASHINGTON. WURTH ALSO SAID THAT LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON JEAN WAGNER HAS BEEN REPORTING THAT USG VIEWS CONFERENCE AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL IN CHARACTER. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER THORN IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT MAJOR "POLITICAL" RESULTS WILL STEM FROM THE CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO WURTH, THORN IS WORRIED THAT IF POLITICAL EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH BEFORE FEBRUARY 11, THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, AIDED BY THE FRENCH, WILL INITIATE A VIOLENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING THE THREAT OF REPRISALS. THORN BELIEVES WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS MUST BEGIN NOW TO ACTIVELY REFUTE CHARGES THAT THE ENERGY CONFERENCE WILL CREATE A BLOC OF CONSUMER NATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WURTH REITERATED THAT THE GOL WILL WANT TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON THE NEXT STEPS IN ENERGY CONSULTATIONS, NAMELY WITH THE LDC'S AND WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS.

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4. THORN ALSO ASKS THE USG NOT TO OPPOSE THE CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR BETWEEN THE EC AND THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. IF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE GETS OFF TO A GOOD START, THORN BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A MEETING BETWEEN THE EC AND ARAB STATES LATER ON. REGARDING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT THE UN BE USED AS A FORUM FOR A LARGER ENERGY CONFERENCE, THORN REAFFIRMS HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL. THE GOL BELIEVES THAT THE LDC'S, WHO ARE MORE HURT BY OIL

PRICES THAN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MIGHT BECOME UNDERSTANDING ALLIES FOR THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, IF THE ENERGY QUESTION IS DEBATED IN THE UN, THORN ASSUMES THAT THE LDC'S WOULD QUICKLY BE DOMINATED BY THE ARAB BLOC, LEAVING THE HANDFUL OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ISOLATED AND UNDER INTENSE PRESSURES.

5. WORTH ADDED THAT THE GOL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE US PLANS TO SEND THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO LUXEMBOURG FOR PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. FARKAS

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